

COUNTRY

REPORT

TOPIC Military Information from Fuerstenwalde 25X1

EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT 25X1

DATE OBTAINED RED 4 February 1953

REFERENCES 25X1

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. On 8 January 1953, the barracks installation on Braunsdorfer Strasse in Fuerstenwalde was occupied by an estimated 600 to 800 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery, tank, motor transport and signal insignia. During the night of 2 January, some of the units quartered there left the installation toward Rauen-Storkow. Twelve field howitzers and an undetermined number of AT guns and mortars were noticed. Some of the motor vehicles were occupied by soldiers and some were loaded with billeting equipment. The barracks buildings were only partially lighted after the troops had left. On 8 January, the units had not returned. Between 8 and 10 a.m. on 6 January, four groups each of 40 to 50 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets were observed marching toward the Rauensche Ziegelei (brickworks). The soldiers were equipped with parkas and snowshoes. They were oriented and practiced moving in the terrain. Between 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. on 8 January, about 120 soldiers wearing winter clothes were engaged in field training in the training area northwest of the installation. 25X1
2. On 8 January, the Pionier Kaserne on Garten Strasse was occupied by an estimated 1,000 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank and motor transport insignia and black-bordered black and blue-bordered black epaulets with signal insignia after, on 1 January, the engineer units had left the installation. Between 8 and 10 a.m. on 8 January, about 80 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets were seen engaged in aiming drill east of the installation. T-34 tanks were in the training area. Two groups each of 15 soldiers who carried 8 field telephones and about 14 reels marched to the training area where they practiced line construction. The soldiers were repeatedly called together for instruction. 25X1
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3. On 3 January, the chief of depot III announced that a branch would be established at the summer camp in Lieberose by 15 March. Contracts for the supply of about 1,000 soldiers in Fuerstenwalde which was to begin in January 1953 were concluded with the bakery and dairy in Lieberose.
4. Prior to 7 January, the barracks installation on Braunsdorfer Strasse was occupied by an estimated 1,200 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery, motor transport, tank and signal insignia. Between 11:15 a.m. and noon on 26 December, about 50 to 60 soldiers were seen entrenching in the training area northwest of the installation. At 11 a.m. on 28 December, soldiers were seen engaged in athletic activities in the barracks yard while most of the soldiers were in the barracks buildings. Between 3 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. on 31 December, about 60 soldiers were seen engaged in firing carbines and pistols with live ammunition at the firing range north of the installation while other soldiers drilled in the barracks yard. At 2 p.m. on 5 January, 180 to 200 soldiers marched to the training area northwest of the installation and practiced aiming and attack.
5. At 1 p.m. on 1 January, 12 motor vehicles carrying engineer equipment and personnel left the Pionier Kaserne toward Langewahl. A short time later they were followed by 2 trucks with pontoons and 4 trucks with bridge building equipment. The unit did not return until 7 January.
6. Prior to 7 January, the barracks installation on the road to Nauen was still occupied by 300 to 400 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets, mostly with motor transport insignia. At 4:30 p.m. on 6 January, a column of 25 driving school trucks proceeded toward the town. Each truck was occupied by 6 to 8 soldiers. No other training activity was noticed in the barracks installation.
7. [] the division was commanded by Major General Kobaridze (fnu). Colonel Khatacheryan (fnu) was charged with the supply of the troops stationed in the Philharmonie. The motor transport unit in the barracks installation on the road to Nauen had [] Division depot III ordered the cooperative store in Lieberose to supply the troops in the summer camp soon. These troops allegedly were technical troops who conducted a winter exercise in the vicinity of the Schwanensee (lake) in the area of Lieberose. [] two units from Beeskow would participate in this exercise in addition to units from Fuerstenwalde.

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Comment. The information indicates no changes in the occupation of the installations mentioned compared with the last report except for the units which departed in early January 1953. [] It is believed that, on 1 January, elements of the 122d (?) Gds Engr Bn of the 7th Gds Mecz Div and, on 3 January, elements of the 24th Gds Mecz Regt of the division had left. The field howitzers observed with these troops cannot be accounted for, as the unidentified guards howitzer artillery regiment of the division is carried in Frankfurt/Oder. Paragraphs 3 and 7 of the present report indicate that these units moved to the Lieberose troop training grounds, probably for practices.

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As in 1952, short-term practices were thus observed to begin at the troop training grounds in East Germany. The entrainment in Beeskow on 15 January of engineers may probably be because of adverse weather conditions. The engineer battalion did not take up quarters at the troop training grounds, but rather in the barracks installation and, upon completion of the exercise on 15 January, possibly returned to Puerstenwalde.

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[redacted] two units are stationed in Beeskow. [redacted] Available records indicate that the 688th Motor Trans Bn of the aforementioned division which is quartered in the barracks installation on the road to Rauen has [redacted] There is a possibility that the drivers' school of the division which is also quartered in this installation has [redacted] Major General Y. G. Koveridze is known from previous reports as commanding officer of the division.

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